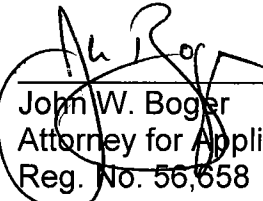


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: SCHWARTZ Confirmation No.: 1470
Serial No.: 10/598,223 Group Art Unit: 3774
Filed: August 22, 2006 Examiner: LEVINE, Joshua H.
Title: ARTICULAR CARTILAGE FIXATION DEVICE AND METHOD

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted electronically to: the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 11, 2009.



John W. Boger
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 56,658

Date of Signature: March 11, 2009

RESPONSE TO THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the first Office Action mailed on November 12, 2008, in connection with the above-identified U.S. patent application. A response to the Office Action was initially due by February 12, 2009, and thus, a request for a one-month extension of time and authorization for payment therefore is filed herewith. Therefore, this response is timely filed.

Amendments begin on page 2 of this paper. Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.